CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

1.   A gaming device comprising:

a game wagerable upon by a player;

a plurality of reels including a plurality of symbols in said game, said symbols including at least one award symbol, at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol;

a triggering event based on at least said award symbol and said positive modifier symbol displayed simultaneously on the reels; and

an award adapted to be provided to the player in said game, wherein the award is associated with the award symbol and modified by a designated number of positive modifiers associated with any displayed positive modifier symbol and a designated number of negative modifiers associated with any displayed negative modifier symbol.

2.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the positive modifier includes at least one of the following: a positive value, a positive multiplier and a positive percentage of the award.

3.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the negative modifier includes at least one of the following: a negative value and a negative percentage of the award.

4.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a probability of being selected is associated with each of the positive and negative modifiers.

5.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one relatively large positive modifier and a plurality of relatively small positive modifiers are associated with the positive modifier symbol.

6.   The gaming device of Claim 5, wherein the probability associated with the relatively large positive modifier is less than the at least one of the probabilities associated with the plurality of relatively small positive modifiers.

7.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein at least one relatively large negative modifier and a plurality of relatively small negative modifiers are associated with the negative modifier symbol.

8.   The gaming device of Claim 7, wherein the probability associated with the relatively large negative modifier is less than the plurality of probabilities associated with the plurality of relatively small negative modifiers.

9.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of reels include a plurality of independent reels.

10.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the triggering event occurs on a payline associated with the reels.

11.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the triggering event occurs on a plurality of paylines associated with the reels.

12.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the award associated with the award symbol is randomly determined.

13.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the award associated with the award symbol is predetermined.

14.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the average value of the modifiers applied to the award is greater than zero.

15.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of positive modifiers and the designated number of negative modifiers for each symbol are randomly determined.

16.   The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers includes a randomly determined value.

17.   The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers includes a pre-determined value.

18.   The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of positive modifiers and the designated number of negative modifiers are pre-determined.

19.   The gaming device of Claim 18, wherein each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers includes a randomly determined value.

20.   The gaming device of Claim 18, wherein each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers includes a pre-determined value.

21.   The gaming device of Claim 18, wherein the triggering event occurs when at least one award symbol, at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol occur on the reels.

22.   A gaming device comprising:

a plurality of reels including a plurality of symbols, said symbols including at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol;

5   an award adapted to be provided to a player; and

at least one positive modifier value and at least one negative modifier value associated with each of said positive and negative modifier symbols occurring on the reels, wherein the average value of the positive and negative modifiers is greater than zero, wherein the award is modified by the positive

10   and negative modifiers, and wherein the positive modifier symbol and the negative modifier symbol are able to be simultaneously displayed and activated.

23.   The gaming device of Claim 22, wherein the average value of the

15   positive and negative modifiers in a plurality of the spins of the reels is approximately zero.

24.   A method of operating a gaming device having a game operable upon a wager, the method comprising:

(a)   activating a plurality of reels including a plurality of symbols, said symbols including at least one award symbol, at least one positive modifier

5   symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol;

(b)   initiating a bonus game including a bonus award when at least said award symbol and said positive modifier symbol occur on the reels;

(c)   modifying the bonus award with a designated number of negative modifiers associated with each negative modifier symbol occurring on the

10   reels;

(d)   modifying the bonus award with a designated number of positive modifiers associated with each positive modifier symbol occurring on the reels; and

(e)   providing the modified bonus award to a player.

15

25.   The method of Claim 24, wherein modifying the bonus award include modifying the bonus award with the designated number of negative modifiers associated with each negative modifier symbol occurring on the reels before modifying the bonus award with the designated number of positive modifiers

20   associated with each positive modifier symbol occurring on the reels.

26.   The method of Claim 24, wherein modifying the bonus award include modifying the bonus award with the designated number of negative modifiers associated with each negative modifier symbol occurring on the reels after modifying the bonus award with the designated number of positive modifiers associated with each positive modifier symbol occurring on the reels.

27.   The method of Claim 24, which includes associating a probability of being selected with each of the negative and positive modifiers.

28.   The method of Claim 24, wherein the average value of the positive and negative modifiers is approximately zero.

29.   The method of Claim 24, wherein the average value of the positive and negative modifiers is greater than zero.

30.   The method of Claim 24, which includes randomly determining the designated number of positive modifiers and the designated number of negative modifiers.

31.   The method of Claim 30, which includes associating a randomly determined value with each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers.

41

32.   The method of Claim 30, which includes associating a pre-determined value with each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers.

33.   The method of Claim 24, which includes pre-determining the designated number of positive modifiers and the designated number of negative modifiers.

34.   The method of Claim 33, which includes associating a randomly determined value with each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers.

35.   The method of Claim 33, which includes associating a pre-determined value with each of the positive modifiers and each of the negative modifiers.

36.   The method of Claim 24, wherein initiating the bonus game includes initiating the bonus game when at least one award symbol, at least one positive modifier symbol and at least one negative modifier symbol occur on the reels.

37.   The method of Claim 24, wherein the steps (a) to (e) are provided to the player through a data network.

38.   The method of Claim 37, wherein the data network is an internet.

38.   The method of Claim 37, wherein the data network is an internet.

39.   The method of Claim 24, which includes a different number of positive

5   and negative symbols.

40.   The method of Claim 24, which includes a plurality of award symbols.